

FIRE LAW VIOLATIONS IN 496 OUT OF 695 SCHOOLS NOT REMEDIED, INQUIRY REVEALS

Meyer Committee Told of Alleged Failure to Safeguard Stairways, Provide Extinguishers or Fire Proof Closets for Storerooms Under Hylan Regime.

The following facts regarding fire dangers permitted to exist in the public schools under the Hylan Administration were produced before the Legislative committee on the affairs of New York City to-day:

The Fire Prevention Bureau has filed notices of 7,353 violations of fire prevention rules in 496 out of 695 public school buildings since January, 1918. None of these has been corrected.

The first appropriation for their correction was made April 22, this year—\$250,000. To correct all of them would cost at least \$4,500,000.

In the event of loss of life because of neglect of these notices blame would fall first on the Board of Estimate for refusing to appropriate the money repeatedly asked by the Superintendent of School Buildings for the purpose, and secondly on the Board of Education for failing to use the money which has been made available.

Records of fifty fires due to neglect of the Fire Department warnings were offered to the committee; they were taken from the files of School Building Superintendent Snyder.

Violations were described including stairways not properly protected; ceilings of boiler rooms not protected; wooden instead of self-closing fireproof doors along exit stairways; lack of hand fire extinguishers; storage of inflammable materials in cellars and storage of dangerous chemicals in exposed wooden closets.

Supr. Anning S. Pratt said that he knew that the Bureau of Fire Prevention of the Fire Department had filed many demands for correction of fire dangers with the Board of Education, but he had never seen any of them and they had never come before the board, being referred to the Superintendent of School Buildings.

No money had been appropriated for fire prevention by the board of estimate in the Hylan Administration until April of this year. He did not know how much of the \$250,000 then appropriated had been spent or was planned to be spent. He said he had never seen the report of School Building Superintendent Snyder to the Superintendent of Schools saying that the schools must be closed if the Fire Department enforced its safety regulations.

STATEMENT OF BROWN IS CHALLENGED BY WALKER.

The statement of Senator Elin R. Brown that there were 7,353 fire "violations" in 496 schools out of a total of 695 schools, was challenged by Senator James J. Walker, Senate minority leader, who said the statement was an unfair effort to get headlines into the newspapers like "Schools Are Fire-Traps," whereas the "violations" were probably trivial and had undoubtedly been corrected in the vacation seasons each year.

Senator Walker said he wanted to hear a competent witness support the statement under oath before allowing it to go to the public.

Former Senator Brown called Maurice Deutch to the stand. He qualified Mr. Deutch as an expert on fire prevention, showing that he was an architect and building engineer of twenty-two years experience; had studied abroad, had a responsible position with the Foundation Company, had been a United States delegate to the Second Pan-American Scientific Congress; was a member of Mayor Mitchell's Committee of Four on Subways; was a member of the Board of Experts of the New York Fire Department in 1916 and had been for seven years a member of the Mer-

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WIFE SUES DR. WIX, NAMES GOVERNESS AS CO-RESPONDENT

Says Prominent Physician Took Girl on Trip Through Europe.

When Dr. George B. Wix, who maintains two offices and is reputed to be worth \$500,000, brought Miss Heddy A. Stutz into his home five years ago Mrs. Winifred Wix says she believed the young woman was to be governess for their five-year-old daughter, Helen. She later learned, she says, that this was false, and today Mrs. Wix filed suit for divorce, naming the governess as co-respondent.

Mrs. Wix, in papers prepared by Samuel S. Whitehouse of No. 164 Montague Street, Brooklyn, narrates that she married the doctor in Philadelphia June 7, 1906. They were living at Long Beach when the doctor brought

BRONX GIRL WINS A JOB CREATED BY LAST LEGISLATURE



Miss Rose F. Lucia.
Miss Rose F. Lucia Appointed Probation Investigator by Judge Gibbs.

County Judge Louis D. Gibbs of the Bronx yesterday announced the appointment of Rose F. Lucia of No. 663 East 181st Street, the Bronx, to be confidential clerk to the Judge. Miss Lucia's work will be largely that of a special investigator in the probation department of the Bronx County Court. The new appointee will receive a salary of \$1,800 per year and fills a post created by a special act of the Legislature. She has been a volunteer probation worker in the County Court for the past three years, being attached there as a worker for the Catholic Big Sisters and the Catholic Charities.

When the bill was passed creating the new position last January it was necessary for the Civil Service Commission to get up a special examination. Five persons took the exam and Miss Lucia headed the list of successful candidates. She is an active political worker and a Captain in the Women's Police Reserves of the Bronx.

"PEEPING TOM" WITH LIGHT SCARES BROOKLYN WOMEN

Five Policemen and Volunteer Posse Guard Against His Return.

A "Peeping Tom" scare has developed to such an extent in the vicinity of Chauncey Street and Ralph and Howard Avenues, Brooklyn, that last night five plain clothes policemen and a number of the men living in the neighborhood stood guard about the houses and rear yards.

The "Peeper" was reported as having been seen early Sunday morning and early Monday morning. Each time he was frightened away after he had used a flashlight.

Heads of families have been applying to Acting Capt. Withers of the Ralph Avenue Police Station for revolver permits. There is general alarm among the women.

Miss Isabel Hanford, twenty-one years old, who lives with her brother, Arthur L. Hanford, on the ground floor of a six-family apartment house at No. 310 Chauncey Street, was badly frightened about 3 o'clock Sunday morning. She said she was awakened by a light in her face. She sat up in bed and looked out through a small window opening on an alleyway and discerned the head and shoulders of a man. When the man saw her he put out the light and she could hear him scrambling away.

A second visitation was reported by Mrs. Rose Webster of No. 235 Marion Street at the rear of No. 308 Chauncey Street. This was about 2 o'clock Monday morning.

Looking across to the Chauncey Street house, Mrs. Webster said she saw a man crouching by one of the ground floor windows of the apartment of Mr. and Mrs. George Shell. The man had a flashlight and turned it on the window. At this Mrs. Webster leaned out of her window and screamed. The man fled, jumping several fences.

The police do not believe the mysterious visitor is a burglar.

MAN YOU TAKE FOR BANKER MAY BE A MERE COP

"Can't tell who's who in this town these days," remarked Hyman Ax, an ice dealer of No. 299 Avenue A, when he paid a \$10 fine to-day in Traffic Court, after Magistrate Cobb had found him guilty of obstructing the crosswalk at Irving Place and 14th Street yesterday.

Capt. Patrick Cray of Traffic A told Ax to move his horse and wagon from the crosswalk.

"Who the — are you?" demanded Ax.

"I'm a police officer. You are violating the law," Capt. Cray replied.

Then Ax said something about "nosy citizens," and demanded credentials and a look at the police badge.

Capt. Cray caused his arrest. Ax, after paying the \$10 fine to-day, said: "Gee that Police Captain looked more like a banker than a main guy."

MARRIED MAN WITH \$5,000 INCOME AND MORE THAN SIX CHILDREN TO PAY NO TAX

Senate Committee in Agreeing to Personal Exemption Provisions of House Bill Assures Their Adoption.

Administration's Taxation Programme Headed for Scrap Heap as Mellon's Recommendations Go By Board.

(Special From a Staff Correspondent of The Evening World.)
WASHINGTON, Sept. 12.—If you're a married man with more than six dependent children and an income of \$5,000 a year, don't worry; you won't have to pay an income tax.

Uncle Sam will look with compassion on you if you're in that fix, assuming you need the money worse than he does. It's one of the little savings accomplished by the Republican revenue bill.

In agreeing to the personal exemption provisions of the House measure, the Senate Finance Committee virtually guarantees their final adoption. The new bill provides an exemption of \$2,500 for a married man, an increase of \$500 over that allowed by the present law, and \$400 for each dependent child or adult, instead of \$200 as at present. These exemptions require a man with a \$5,000 income and six children to pay an income tax on only \$100 of his income, and a man with more children or a smaller proportionate income to go scot free.

But there is no exemption from the tax of making out an income tax return. That job must be performed whether the Government collects an income tax or not.

An informal decision by the Finance Committee to repeal the excess profits tax as of Jan. 1 next, instead of Jan. 1, 1921, as urged by Secretary of the Treasury Mellon and by Senator Penrose as Chairman of the committee, keeps hundreds of millions in the Treasury which otherwise would have had to be refunded to business taxpayers from collections during the current calendar year. It also has been decided to repeal the higher surtaxes, fixing a new maximum of 32 per cent, as of Jan. 1, 1921. Secretary Mellon recommended a cut to 25 per cent. These two decisions, it has been indicated, may make it possible to repeal the transportation taxes outright, as well as the "luxury" and "anti-luxury" taxes.

In shaping the new bill and ratifying most of the House provisions, the Finance Committee figured it would be better to disappoint business interests than the small taxpayer.

Nearly all of Secretary Mellon's tax recommendations, originally rejected by the House, have been rejected likewise by the Senators, who are whipping the measure into its final form. With the House and Senate in virtual accord, it is anticipated the bill can be rushed through in a hurry with few amendments and only reasonable debate.

The normal tax rate of 4 per cent on incomes under \$5,000 and 8 per cent on incomes over that amount remains unchanged in the new measure.

An agreement was reached that the committee will vote immediately after assembling on the proposition to make the repeal of the excess profits tax retroactive to Jan. 1, 1921. This was recommended by Secretary Mellon. It is well understood this will be rejected by the committee and the date of repeal made effective as of Jan. 1, 1922.

A determination was reached by the Finance Committee to vote finally on the Revenue Bill and all proposed amendments not later than this Friday. This, Senator Penrose explained, will give the experts and legislative draftsmen ample time in which to frame the measure in readiness for presentation to the Senate when it reconvenes on Sept. 21.

The net loss provision of the House bill was approved by the Finance Committee. This permits a business man to deduct a net loss after Jan. 1, 1921, from his returns for the succeeding year.

Sir Richard Anderson Squires, Premier of Newfoundland, appeared before the Finance Committee. He submitted an argument against prohibitive rates on cod and herring and cod oil. He outlined the struggling trade between the United States and Newfoundland in fish and fish oil, and expressed the hope that this trade be encouraged. He will submit a brief later.

Arrested—His Thirteenth Time.
John O'Connor, twenty-eight, of No. 171 East 33d Street, whose police record shows twelve previous arrests, was taken for the possibly unlucky thirteenth time this morning when he was arrested at 29th Street and 6th Avenue by George E. Giffey, a mounted policeman, on the complaint of Nat Weinstein, a furrier, No. 131 West 29th Street, who charged grand larceny.

Weinstein said O'Connor walked into his shop, seized a box of fur worth \$1,000 and ran out. He gave chase and the arrest followed. O'Connor's record includes a Sing Sing term for burglary.

Dr. Richard B. Contant Dead.
Dr. Richard B. Contant, one of the best known physicians in Westchester County, died in Tarrytown at 4 o'clock this morning after a long illness. He was seventy-six years old. He had treated Cyrus Field, John D. Rockefeller, William Rockefeller, Jay Gould, John D. Archibald and Robert and Peter Hoe. He was President of the Tarrytown Historical Society and Tarrytown Hospital.

MISS RHINELANDER ENGAGED TO WED JULIAN SHACKNO



Miss Rhinelander.
Miss Rhinelander, daughter of Philip Rhinelander, to Julian St. Charles Shackno.

Although its formal announcement will not be made until to-night, the engagement of Miss Adelaide Kip Rhinelander, daughter of Philip Rhinelander, to Julian St. Charles Shackno, has already become known to many friends of the couple. In the absence of Mr. Rhinelander, his cousin, Walton Livingston Oakley, was authorized to confirm the engagement.

Miss Rhinelander, a member of one of the oldest New York families, has been prominent in society since her debut two years ago. Mr. Shackno is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Julian Shackno of No. 289 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn. He is the New York manager of the banking house of Stroud & Co., at No. 41 Exchange Place.

PASTOR TOO FOND OF OTHER WOMEN, SAYS WIFE, SUING

Given a Gold Cross by One, She Alleges, and Was Tyrannical in Own Home.

A gold cross, engraved with the names "Elizabeth and Joe," given by a woman friend of Joseph J. Gentner, the alleged dismissed pastor of the Elmendorf Chapel of the Harlem Reformed Church in East 123d Street, and visits of other women to the parsonage in the absence of the pastor's wife, have caused Mrs. Edith M. Gentner to bring a suit for separation against her husband, who is now Secretary of the Industrial Department of the Young Men's Christian Association.

In her complaint Mrs. Gentner also charges that her husband has been guilty of cruel and inhuman treatment and abandonment. She alleges that from the date of their marriage, June 28, 1909, the ex-minister has been tyrannical and that he used violence before his two children. On May 21 last, Mrs. Gentner says, her husband left her and she had to seek shelter with her parents in Brooklyn.

Mrs. Gentner charges that her husband humiliated her by his attentions to Elizabeth Brewster, and in the winter of 1919 was her guest in Orange County for a long time. She gave him a gold watch and chain and the cross and, she alleges, he received love letters from her, which she believes her husband answered.

Other women who made "long visits" at the parsonage, according to the complaint, were Mrs. E. Moog, Helen Tubhill and Elizabeth Hooker. These tete-a-tetes, Mrs. Gentner says, were during her absence.

Following his alleged dismissal from the church, Gentner, according to his wife, became associated with the Young Men's Christian Association at No. 315 W. 57th Street, where he was religious director. He now is Secretary of the Industrial Department and, including lectures, earns \$2,000 a year, his wife states.

"Yeah," confesses Billy. "There's one good thing about going back to school—the Ancres Cheese mother puts in my sandwiches."

New, Coated, Sanitary Wrapper

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CHEESE
Made by Sharpless, Phila.

SHOOT AT GIRL AND MEN HE SAYS TRIED TO ROB HIM

Engineer Awakened by Trio Demanding Ring Rouses Neighborhood to Chase.

His nightshirt ballooning in the breeze, while with one hand he caused fire and shot to spurt from a revolver and with the other hand held a police whistle to his lips, tooting constantly thereon, Luke Cheff of No. 139 East 18th Street, a chemical engineer employed by the Standard Oil Company, aroused the neighborhood in the vicinity of his home early to-day as he pursued through the streets a fleeing girl and two men who, he said, had tried to rob him.

The girl and one man were arrested. They said they were Gladys Kaufman, twenty-five, of No. 159 East Houston Street and Charles Rano, twenty-eight, of No. 295 Elizabeth Street.

When arrested Miss Kaufman, who said she was a model and came from Philadelphia, exclaimed:

"All this for a little friendly call!" According to Cheff, there was a knock on his door at 2 o'clock this morning, and when he inquired who was there and expostulated at being disturbed at such an hour, the girl said:

"Why, Luke, you're not afraid to let me in, surely?"

Cheff opened the door, he said, to learn the cause of the pother, when the girl and two men crowded into his apartment, slammed the door and demanded his "diamond ring." Sprung to the bed, he produced an automatic from beneath the pillow and fired a shot into the floor.

His visitors fled. Grabbing up a police whistle, Cheff followed. The chase led through 18th Street to Irving Place, to 19th Street, to Third Avenue and down to 17th Street, while the popping of the automatic and the shrill blasts of the whistle brought startled faces to nearly every bedroom window along the route. Some thought a ghost was abroad when they saw the white-robed figure.

One of the fleeing men escaped, but the others encountered the none too gentle embrace of Policeman Sweeney and were locked up.

Later Cheff told Magistrate Corrigan he did not wish to press the charges against Miss Kaufman and Rano, but wanted them to promise to stay away from his apartment. Magistrate Corrigan dismissed them with a warning.

M. F. Goodrich Dies in Omaha.
OMAHA, Neb., Sept. 12.—Melville F. Goodrich, former President of the United States Motor Sales Transportation Company of Boston, who was stricken with pneumonia recently while being taken from Los Angeles to Boston on a private charge, died in a hospital here to-day.

GIRL OF 19 WHO LED CLASS OF 2,000 IN CONTEST FOR JOB



Elizabeth P. Lawless.
Miss Lawless in Exam for Clerkship Scores Nearly 100 Per Cent.

Notification that she heads the Civil Service list of 2,000 competitors for city clerks with a grand average of 98.16 per cent, came as a most welcome birthday gift to Miss Elizabeth P. Lawless of No. 107 East 192d Street to-day. Miss Lawless, who is nineteen years old to-day, took the examination for a second-grade clerkship last spring, and to use her own words, "had almost forgotten all about it."

The envelope bearing the official notification of her high mark was received by the fortunate young woman as one of her first birthday presents.

Miss Lawless, who is at present employed as a stenographer, was educated in St. Cecilia's Parochial School at 166th Street and Lexington Avenue and in the Wadsworth High School at 144th Street and Seventh Avenue, from which she was graduated.

"To say that I am surprised and pleased is putting it far too mildly," said the girl to-day. "I expected to pass the examination all right, but never dreamed I would head the whole list. The knowledge that I am at the top of the list came as one of my finest birthday presents."

\$50,000 of Kentucky Liquor Seized by Uncle Sam.
Unclaimed liquor worth in the neighborhood of \$50,000 was seized to-day, according to the prohibition agents at No. 49 West 25th Street. The liquor had been stored in the freight station of the New York Central Railroad at Pier 28, North River, and also Pier 28, North River. It was consigned, according to the authorities, to the Central Drug Company from points in Kentucky.

Scribbled in a copybook carried by the boy the police found the name "William Wundet, 2-B, room 205." No such name is registered at the school nor is there such a room. The body is being held at the police station awaiting identification.

CHARGE PORTER FIRED HOUSE TO COVER THEFT.
Barnes Said to Have Packed Loot in Stolen Trunk.

Albert Barnes, No. 677 Lenox Avenue, was held in \$20,000 bail in General Sessions to-day on charges of arson and grand larceny.

He had been a porter in the apartment house at No. 871 St. Nicholas Avenue. It is charged that on March 9 he entered the top floor apartment there, where Mrs. Augusta R. Potter and Mrs. Jane B. Pennell lived, packed \$2,000 worth of their belongings in one of their trunks, had the trunk sent to his home and started a fire in the St. Nicholas Avenue building. The police say the trunk and its contents were recovered.

GIRL ON BIRTHDAY LEARNS SHE WINS JOB IN 2,000 CLASS

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